

Appl. No.: 09/945,106
Amdt. Dated: 06/16/2005
Off. Act. Dated: 04/05/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Allowance of Claims.**

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 14-26 and 39-51.

2. **Allowability of Claims.**

The Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 5-7, 10-13, 30-32 and 35-38 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

Claim 5 has been amended into independent form and, therefore, is now in a condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 6-7 are also in a condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended into independent form and, therefore, is now in a condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 11-13 are also in a condition for allowance.

Claim 30 has been amended into independent form and, therefore, is now in a condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 31-32 are also in a condition for allowance.

Claim 35 has been amended into independent form and, therefore, is now in a condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 36-38 are also in a condition for allowance.

3. **Rejection of Claims.**

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 27-29, 33 and 34 were rejected based on prior art cited by the Examiner. In order to expedite prosecution, the Applicant has canceled those claims without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and without prejudice to filing one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot.

4. **Conclusion.**

Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present application to pass to issuance.

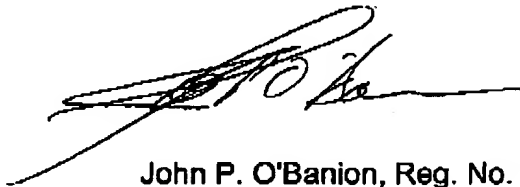
In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present

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application, the Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: 6/16/05

Respectfully submitted,



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